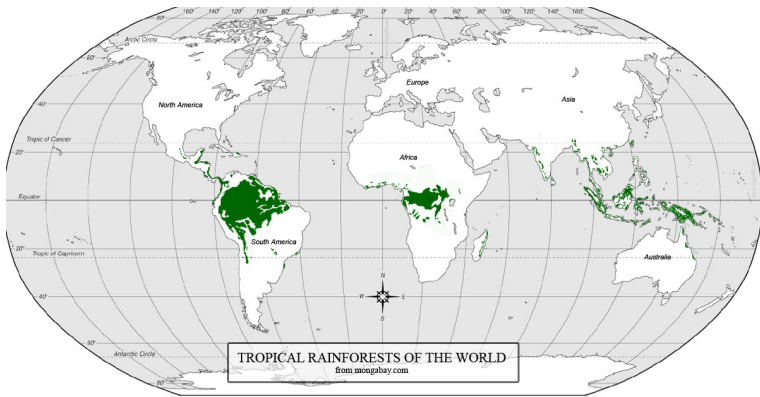


Year 5: Biomes and the Distribution of Natural Resources

TROPICAL RAINFORESTS:



Tropical rainforests are found near the equator.

The Amazon rainforest is found in South America and is the largest in the world.

The climate in the rainforest is tropical. This means that it is warm and wet all year.

There are a number of animals and plants that are adapted to live in the rainforest. These include: sloths, spider monkeys, poison dart frogs, tigers, toucans and okapi.

KEY VOCABULARY:



AMAZON RAINFOREST: a moist, broadleaf tropical rainforest in the Amazon biome.



BIOME: a naturally occurring community of living organisms.



CLIMATE: the long term pattern of weather in a particular area.



DEFORESTATION: the action of clearing a wide area of trees



EQUATOR: an imaginary line around the centre of the Earth that goes exactly midway between the north and south pole.



NORTHERN HEMISPHERE: the half of the earth that is north of the equator.



SOIL EROSION: the wearing away of dirt and soil by water, wind and human actions.



TEMPERATE: a region or climate characterised by mild temperatures

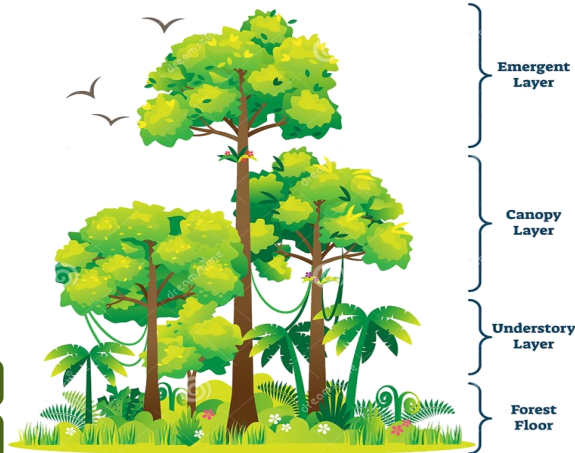


TROPICAL RAINFOREST: a rainforest that occurs in an area of tropical climate

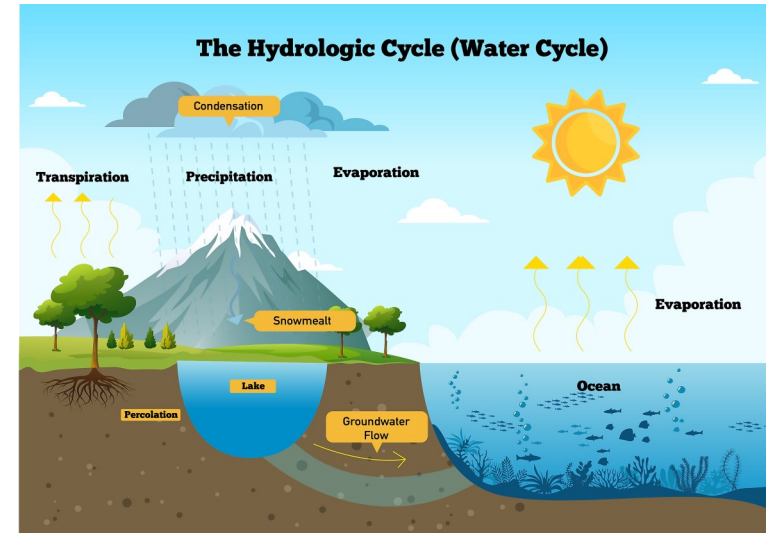


WATER CYCLE: the path that all water follows as it goes around the earth in different states.

RAINFOREST LAYERS



THE WATER CYCLE:



DEFORESTATION:

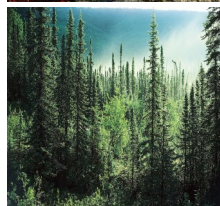
Forests are cut down to be sold as fuel and also to clear land from industry and pasture (the farming of animals) This results in a number of issues including: loss of habitat; climate change; an impact on the water cycle; soil erosion; and destruction of the homelands of indigenous people.

BIOMES:



Tundra biomes are found in the extreme north.

They have dry, cold conditions. The main plants include mosses, lichen and short grasses. Arctic foxes, reindeer, and migrating birds are some common tundra animals.



Taiga biomes are conifer forest biomes.

It lies just south of the tundra biome. They have long, cold winters and short, mild summers. It gets more rain than a tundra. Conifers are trees with needles, such as spruces and firs. Lynx, grey wolves, moose and beavers are common taiga biome animals.



Deserts are very hot and dry.

The largest desert, the Sahara, is in northern Africa. Deserts receive less than 10 inches of rain each year. Cacti and creosote bushes are two types of plant that live here. Rattlesnake, lizards, roadrunners, and some owls are animals that live in this biome.



Deciduous forests are found in the Northern Hemisphere.

They have cold winters and warm summers. Trees that are deciduous shed their leaves. Deer, bears, bobcats and squirrels are found here.



Grasslands get enough rain for grass to grow but not forests.

Temperate grasslands have hot summers and cold winters. **Tropical grasslands**, also known as savannahs, are hot all year.

Prairie dogs and mule live in temperate grasslands of North America.

Giraffes, zebras, and lions live in tropical grasslands of Africa.